

## Lebanese helicopter crashes into sea

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Lebanese army helicopter exploded in mid-air Saturday and crashed into the Mediterranean north of Beirut, apparently killing both navigators on board, police said. Police attributed the explosion to a "technical fault." The French-designed Puma "was seen on fire seconds before it exploded at 12:20 p.m. (1020 GMT)," some 28 kilometers north of Beirut. It said a naval vessel later found the bodies of George Sadaga and John Kazzi. The Lebanese army refused to give further details of the incident which reduced to 10 the number of Puma helicopters still owned by the air force. Five helicopters and the Lebanese navy immediately launched a search for the missing men, who put out an SOS call before they crashed. More than half an hour later there was still no sign of them, police said. "There are no traces from the helicopter or the crew," they said, adding that the crash occurred one kilometre off the coastline. Police said the helicopter was on a flight from the Adma military air base, 26 kilometres north of Beirut, to the nearby makeshift Halat airport, when the incident occurred.

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King sends message to Saudi leader

RIYADH (Petra) — King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia Saturday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with bilateral relations as well as current developments in the Arab situation. The message was delivered to King Fahd by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

Cabinet endorses death sentences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday endorsed a military court ruling that sentenced two involved in the killing of money exchanger Muhi Al Din Al Bashir to death. During its regular session, the Cabinet decided that the Department of Antiquities should come under the authority of the newly-formed Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The council of ministers, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also discussed and approved a legislation that merges the Ministry of Communication and the Postal Savings Fund in a new entity called the General Corporation for Post and Postal Savings and to put it under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transport and Communication. The Cabinet also discussed the principles governing the organisation of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water.

Oil products sales go up

AMMAN (Petra) — The sales of oil products by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) registered an increase of four per cent in 1987 over 1986, the company said Saturday. A total of 2,972,259 metric tonnes of oil products were sold during 1987 up from 2,822,813 metric tonnes sold in 1986, the company said.

Iraq reports 22 Iranians killed

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday its forces killed 22 Iranian soldiers in ground clashes on the Gulf war from during the past 24 hours. A military spokesman said 11 Iranian infantry positions were destroyed along with four machine-guns and an artillery gun. Thirteen of the Iranians were killed on the central sector of the front, about 120 Kilometres east of Baghdad, and the rest on other sectors, he said.

New Iraqi justice minister named

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein issued a decree Saturday appointing a new head for Iraq's Justice Ministry. The new minister, Akram Abdul Kader Ali, was head of the state consultative council. Munther Ibrahim, who had been justice minister for nearly 10 years, moved to the vacant post of higher education and scientific research minister.

Pakistan declines comment on reports of nuclear shipment

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's minister of foreign affairs declined Saturday to comment on recent West German reports that Pakistan received weapons-grade nuclear material from Europe. "We have no comments so far," said Zain Noorani, when asked about the reports from Bonn. "I will first like to see the reports before making any comment," he added.

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- Vow of suicide mission
- Rajab vowed in an interview with Reuters Friday that he and his comrades would carry out a suicide mission against Israel if they could not return to their homes.
- We will stage a hang-glider attack or will infiltrate as human bombs with explosives belted around our waists," he said.
- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) took the four men to Ksara Thursday.
- Gross said an ICRC official, Michel Dufour, had been sent to Ksara Friday "to meet the four and convey to them our position."

Goulding caught up in Balata clash • Settlers shoot and wound Arabs • Israeli rally calls for just solution

## Curfews and siege fail to quell Palestinian revolt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza kept up anti-occupation protests Saturday despite an increased Israeli military presence in the occupied territories.

mained under treatment for injuries suffered in a storming of Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque by Israeli soldiers Friday.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, a Roman Catholic priest said he was beaten with wooden clubs and rifle butts by troops on a routine patrol who had asked him to produce his identity papers.

"I told them I was a priest and had a Vatican passport but not an Israeli I.D.," Faisal Hijazeen told Reuters. "They asked me to stand against the wall and raise my hands so they could search me. And all of a sudden they started to beat me."

Rubber bullets landed near U.N. Under-secretary-General Marrack Goulding as he visited Balata refugee camp in the West Bank and his aides "smelled a whiff of tear-gas (but) there was never any danger" to Goulding, Bill Lee, a chief U.N. spokesman in the Middle East, told the AP.

U.S. Consul Morris Draper called on the Israelis to ease restrictions against Palestinians in the occupied territories and "let the people there breathe a little."

A Palestinian was wounded by rubber bullet in Jabelya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Gaza hospital officials said.

A rift over how to handle the persistent protests, meanwhile, was growing within Israel, with a group of Israelis demonstrating against government policy and Tel Aviv's mayor demanding the government renfumish the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The incident at Balata, about 60 kilometres north of Jerusalem, occurred after hundreds of Palestinians gathered to talk to Goulding. The Israelis apparently mistook the group for a crowd of protesters, Lee said.

The army confirmed only that protests broke out and that soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear-gas before imposing a curfew. A spokesman said he knew nothing about Goulding's visit.

Goulding is preparing a report for the United Nations.

He told the British Broadcasting Corporation Israel's policy "in the judgement of the whole of the international community has

(Continued on page 3)

ICRC says it helpless in case of expelled Palestinians

BEIRUT (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sought Israeli acceptance Saturday for the return of four Palestinians expelled from the occupied West Bank but it said they could not be returned without such agreement.

"The ICRC does not have the means to force Israel or any state to accept them. We should wait for a political agreement before making any move," Dominique Gross, chief delegate of the ICRC in Lebanon, told Reuters.

He said the ICRC was seeking that agreement from Israel. "Our action then will depend on the Israeli answer," he said.

Gross said "countries that signed the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in wartime should force Israel to respect the agreement and oblige it to return the four men to their homeland."

Israel expelled the four to Lebanon Wednesday after accusing them of instigating anti-occupation protests.

Gross said Ilib Mahmud Rabah, 34, Bashir Ahmad Khayri, 45, Hussain Hadar, 26, and Jamal Jabar, 28, spent their second night at an ICRC office in the town of Ksara, east of Beirut.

The four activists had appealed to the ICRC to return them to their homes or hand them over to any other international organisation outside Lebanon.

They are the first of nine

Palestinians who Israel said it would expel, despite strong international condemnation and two U.N. Security Council resolutions urging it not to do so.

Amal ends blockade of Palestinian refugee camps

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Amal militia leader Nabil Berri lifted a military siege on three Palestinian refugee camps Saturday as a gesture of support for protests in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Amal decided to lift its military siege around the camps as gift to our brothers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Berri told a news conference at his home in west Beirut.

The camps affected are Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila in west Beirut and Rashidiyah in the port town of Tyre, 80 kilometres south of Beirut.

Berri has previously offered to lift the siege on condition that Palestinians withdraw from Amal positions southeast of Sidon which they overran last October.

A seven-month total blockade

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussed Saturday the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the ongoing Palestinian uprising there.

The discussions made during a brief stopover President Mubarak made at Aqaba on his way home after concluding a visit to the Arab Gulf states and Iraq.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mubarak briefed the King on the outcome of his talks with the leaders of the Arab Gulf states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

As the two leaders met, senior officials from both sides held a separate meeting and discussed bilateral relations and cooperation, Petra said. It did not give details.

The Egyptian president was accompanied by a delegation which included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Minister for Cabinet Affairs Atef Obeid and the director of President

His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a short stop-over the from the Gulf Saturday (Petra photo)

## Egyptian leader briefs His Majesty on outcome of Gulf visit

## King, Mubarak discuss W. Bank and Gaza



Egyptian leader made at Aqaba on his way home from the Gulf Saturday (Petra photo)

Mubarak's office, Osama Al Baz, Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief

(Continued on page 3)

## Kuwait seeks OIC action

KUWAIT (AP) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has called for a mini-summit of Islamic leaders to discuss a plan of action to counter Israel's actions against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The daily Al Seyassah's report was published as newspapers across the Gulf depicted their editors to the ongoing protests, denouncing Israel, praising the Palestinians and calling for Arab support.

Al Seyassah said Sheikh Jaber proposed a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) chairmanship bureau to discuss "a plan of action."

The chairmanship bureau said lack of unanimity on a statement was due to the "position of one permanent member of the council."

The United States is widely expected to veto a resolution containing many of the Lebanese demands that was circulated by the council's non-aligned members.

Al Seyassah said the Kuwaiti emir met with the Kuwaiti emir Saturday.

The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said Pizraze denounced the "brutal, oppressive Zionist practices against unarmed Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories."

Arabs condemn Israel for storming Al Aqsa

Arab newspapers and government officials joined Saturday in condemning Israeli forces for baton-charging Palestinian protesters after Friday prayers on Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif complex.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said Israeli police fired dozens of tear-gas shells to disperse Palestinian demonstrators as worshippers were leaving the Al Aqsa Mosque.

About 70 people were injured, one doctor said, when the police charged into the demonstrators as tear-gas drifted into the mosque.

In Amman, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayat told Reuters the action at Al Aqsa was "part of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories."

In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said the Palestinian protests "reflect clearly the sense of despair felt by the Palestinians in the occupied territories."

The Israeli actions show the Zionist entity's brutal and suppressive policy against the Arabs," he added.

In Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual

## Lebanon urges Security Council action for Israeli withdrawal

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— Lebanon called on the Security Council Friday to condemn the "inhuman Israeli acts of aggression" in southern Lebanon and force Israel to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanese territory.

Fakhouri also pointed out that Israel, which with its allies of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, occupies a so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon, had recently besieged the village of Yohmar for eight days. Supplies were able to get through only after Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar intervened, he said.

Referring to a December U.N. report saying Israel had fenced off 10 locations along the Lebanese side of the border, Fakhouri said Israel was apparently trying to encroach on Lebanon's land and waters.

This week, Fakhouri continued, Israel used the "security zone" to deport four Palestinians, accused of leading anti-occupation protests in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Fakhouri said: "What we call is to open a Security Council debate first requested eight days ago but delayed while council members tried unsuccessfully to agree on a statement, instead of holding a formal session and adopting a resolution."

In a thinly veiled reference to the United States, Fakhouri said lack of unanimity on a statement was due to the "position of one permanent member of the council."

The United States is widely expected to veto a resolution containing many of the Lebanese demands that was circulated by the council's non-aligned members.

Israel did not speak at Friday's session and the council is to meet again Monday.

"Israel should stop such acts of aggression and practices forth-

(Continued on page 3)

## Gorbachev suggests SDI could wreck arms control

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has signalled the U.S. "Star Wars" anti-missile defence project could wreck prospects for cuts in strategic weapons.

The Kremlin message was delivered in a speech reported by the official TASS news agency Saturday to members of a new International Committee on the Survival of Humanity.

"If the arms race moves out into space, it would bring destabilisation and that is why as a matter of principle it is impossible to agree with such a thought," Gorbachev said.

"Our view is that... it is impossible to work on disarmament in some areas and extend the arms race in others," Gorbachev added in what analysts said was a clear reference to "Star Wars," formally known as the strategic defence initiative (SDI).

"In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said the Palestinian protests "reflect clearly the sense of despair felt by the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories."

"In Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual

"It is necessary that the trust that has begun to take shape between the partners in the negotiations should not be wrecked by one side trying to outsmart the other," Gorbachev added.

(Continued on page 3)

## Iranians hit Japanese tanker

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iranian gunboats raided a Japanese-operated tanker in the mouth of the Gulf Saturday, leaving it "dead in the water," shipping executives said. It was the sixth attack in a week.

The executives said most of the Korean crew abandoned the 12,467-ton Rainbow when a fierce fire broke out after it was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

But they said the fire was later extinguished, and the crew was expected to return to the Liberian-flag chemical tanker, which had taken on a load of methanol at an Arab Gulf port.

There were no reports of injury in the attack, which occurred off the tip of Oman in the Strait of Hormuz.

One shipping executive said the vessel was "dead in the water" and that tugs would probably have to tow it to a port.

Shipping sources said an Omani naval ship took on the crew when they left the Rainbow, and another helped extinguish the blaze. One source said a French warship in the area offered assistance, but there was no indication if the offer was accepted.

The Rainbow was the sixth ship reported attacked this week by the two Gulf war combatants following a two-week pause that saw only one attack, an apparently accidental Iraqi raid on a Greek-owned freighter.

(Continued on page 3)

# Iran reportedly behind plot to blow up Bahraini refinery

LONDON (R) — A Saudi-owned newspaper published here said on Saturday Iran was behind a plot revealed last month to blow up an oil refinery in the Gulf island state of Bahrain.

The Arabic-language *Asfar* Al Awasat said one of three men arrested in connection with the plot, an engineer at the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) refinery, had been trained in sabotage by Iranian intelligence.

Bahrain on Jan. 4 said it had uncovered an underground cell aimed at undermining the economy and installations on the island about 200 kilometres across the Gulf from Iran.

It said one of three men arrested "admitted he had been trained on using arms and explosive

subversives in a training camp outside Bahrain, while the other two had admitted their involvement in supporting the plan." It did not say where he was trained.

*Asfar* Al Awasat, quoting what it termed authorised Bahraini sources, said the Bahraini engineer, Nabil Bager, had travelled to Tehran via Frankfurt in West Germany for training at a camp near Tehran.

The other two were named as Ahmad Hussein Mirza, an Iranian teacher at the Persian-lan-

guage school supervised by the Iranian embassy in Bahrain, and Khaled Al Rassoul Al Amiri, another Bahraini engineer employed by the Ministry of Power and Water.

The newspaper said the three belonged to a Tehrani-based Bahraini opposition group, called the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain and led by Hojjatolislam Hadi Moudarasi, a former Iranian resident expelled from Bahrain.

It said Bahraini authorities had been watching Bager since he had been approached by an Iranian intelligence officer to arrange his travel to Tehran.

The three men were arrested three days before they were due

to sabotage the refinery, partly owned by a U.S. oil group, to coincide with the opening in Riyadh on Dec. 26 of the annual summit of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, it said.

Quoting other sources in Bahrain, the newspaper said the plot was wider-ranging and involved plans to bomb targets such as the island's airport, the radio and television station, embassies, hotels, markets, and homes of senior officials.

It said the plotters also planned to storm the main jail in the capital Manama to free some of the men convicted of a conspiracy to overthrow the Bahrain government in 1981, the last time any opposition was reported in the island state.

The three men were arrested three days before they were due

## Brazil lawmakers to study West Bank, Gaza rebellion

BRASILIA (R) — A delegation of 15 Brazilian congressmen headed for Israel's occupied territories to study the disturbances which have pitted Palestinians against Israelis, legislators have said.

The Israeli embassy has complained about the visit to the Brazilian government, calling it inopportune, unconstructive and an interference in Israel's domestic affairs, embassy spokesman Don Goren said.

Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Sartori said the Brazilian legislators would be travelling to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as tourists.

Goren quoted the ambassador as saying that "any local military commander will be able to stop the group moving around, in accordance with the operational rules in the area."

One Brazilian congressman, Amancio Muller, told Reuters the ambassador's statements were an attempt at intimidation.

## U.S. firm begins capping damaged Iranian platform

DUBAI (R) — An American fire-fighting company has begun the dangerous job of capping an Iranian offshore oil well damaged in a U.S. attack last October, oil sources said.

The Houston-based company Wild Well Control has teamed up with Dutch salvage operators Smit Tak International to cap the leak at Iran's Rostam oil platform in the central Gulf.

The well has been spewing crude since U.S. warships bombarded Rostam on Oct. 19 in retaliation for a Silkworm missile attack on a U.S.-flagged tanker off Kuwait.

Washington said Iran launched the missile and was using Rostam as a base for Iranian gunboats attacks in the Gulf. Tehran denied the charge.

Iranian technicians have been burning off the oil to try to reduce

Muller, of the leftwing Democratic Labour Party (PDT), said by telephone from Rio de Janeiro that the delegation had been authorised by congress to "check the situation of violence which the Palestinian people lives in the territories occupied by Israel."

He added: "We are not going as simple tourists. We are Brazilian legislators, with diplomatic passports. We are going to observe, without intimidation, what is happening to the Palestinian people, which has a legitimate right to hold its territory and make its history, as Brazilian diplomacy recognises."

Foreign Ministry officials and the Israeli embassy denied a report in the *Jornal Do Brasil* newspaper that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had telephoned Brasilia to express his official displeasure at the planned visit.

At least 38 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis in five weeks of protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Muller quoted the ambassador as saying that "any local military commander will be able to stop the group moving around, in accordance with the operational rules in the area."

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## Shultz: Soviets slow on imposing Iran embargo

NEW YORK (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz has said that the Soviets were moving too slowly toward a United Nations Security Council resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran, the New York Times said.

"The Soviets seem to be reluctant about the follow-on resolution," the Times quoted Shultz as saying in a luncheon interview with its Washington staff.

Shultz said "we haven't made as much headway as we should have" on a draft of a resolution following up on a U.N. measure last July in which the Security Council demand both Iran and Iraq agree to an immediate cease-

fire. The Soviets have been moving, but not very fast" on a U.N. move to put an end to the seven-year-old war, the newspaper quoted Shultz as saying in its Saturday editions.

After more than three months of pressure by the United States, the Soviet Union joined the 14 other Security Council members on Christmas Eve in publicly announcing a readiness to proceed with an embargo on sending

arms to Iran, which had refused to accept the July 20 U.N. demand.

The five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, China, Britain, France and the Soviet Union — have met three times since then, but their progress has been held up by Soviet insistence on a U.N. Gulf naval task force.

"Before you talk about military forces, you should talk about what those military forces are supposed to do," Shultz said. "What is the mission? They (the Soviets) haven't made a clear statement about what this mission would be."

A U.S. naval task force has been present in the Gulf since last summer to escort 11 Kuwaiti tankers flying U.S. flags.

Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Belonogov told Reuters on Thursday that: "We think that there may be a time when such a resolution will become absolutely necessary."

But he told reporters that Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar should first have more talks with Tehran and Iraq.

— The New York Times.

## Iranian father and son held in U.S. arms sting

BOSTON (R) — An Iranian importer and his U.S. resident son were arrested on Friday on charges of trying to buy high-tech weapons parts for illegal export to Iran, U.S. Customs Service officials said.

They said the father and son were arrested by customs agents after paying \$280,000 — including a \$100,000 bribe intended for an arms firm official — for missile radar parts during a sting operation in a Boston railroad yard.

Another source said it would take one or two months for the fire-fighting team to cap the well. The sources said it was difficult to estimate how much crude had gushed from the field, which had reserves of 4.2 million barrels, but falling pressure showed a significant amount had already spewed into the Gulf.

The executive immediately contacted customs agents and an undercover operative was assigned to the case.

married to an American woman, a customs spokesman said.

The pair could face up to \$1 million in fines and 15 years in prison each if convicted of violating the U.S. Arms Export Control Act and conspiracy.

William Simmons, customs special agent in charge, said the younger Modaresi contacted an official of a suburban Boston firm that makes the Hawk missile system and asked for military spare parts. A customs spokesman identified the firm as Raytheon Corp.

The executive immediately contacted customs agents and an undercover operative was assigned to the case.

— Military: NATO naval commanders are said to be concerned

## Sofaer: Closing PLO's U.N. office violates law

NEW YORK — Abraham Sofaer, the State Department legal adviser, says that closing the PLO's observer mission to the United Nations, as Congress has mandated, would violate international law.

Sofaer said in an interview recently that shutting the 13-year-old mission could result in a lawsuit against the United States in the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

He said the congressional mandate has "the clear implication that Congress doesn't care if it violates international law."

"We think that's unfortunate," he added.

Sofaer's remarks are the clearest to date that the administration believes it cannot legally close the PLO mission. State Department officials have expressed concern that a battle with the United Nations over the PLO office would prompt widespread criticism from Arab governments and even the United States's closest allies, and would engender widespread sympathy for the PLO.

Last month, the General Assembly voted 125 to 1 to affirm the PLO's right to maintain its mission. Israel cast the only negative vote, while the United States refused to participate.

"It is not good for the United States to be sued or to be taken by the United Nations to a mediation board and to be challenged by the U.N. General Assembly on the legitimacy of its decisions relating to its functions as host country," Sofaer said.

— The New York Times.

about working bow to bow with the Soviet navy which could examine at close quarters latest technology and weapons.

— Practical: Co-ordination among NATO navies and standardisation of communications equipment has made great advances. But liaison with Soviet ships could prove difficult.

The U.N. Security Council's unanimous resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, passed on July 20 last year, has become bogged down after Tehran's refusal to comply.

— NEWS ANALYSIS

And the Council's five permanent members, the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China, have been unable to agree on an arms embargo to back the original peace demand.

Moscow has recently indicated it would be willing to drop its objections to sanctions — urged by Washington and London — if a U.N. force was set up.

Western nations have three main objections to a large force patrolling the length of the Gulf.

— Strategic: A U.N. force would allow Moscow to increase its foothold in the Gulf after a series of diplomatic setbacks.

— Military: NATO naval commanders are said to be concerned

## Hopes raised for imminent release of Cordes as Genscher meets Assad

DAMASCUS (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday amid renewed hopes for the imminent release of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes in Lebanon.

High-ranking Syrian Foreign Ministry officials said Damascus had intensified its efforts to gain the release of foreigners missing in Lebanon and believed kidnapped by militant pro-Iranian groups.

Genscher discussed the hostage issue with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara after he arrived in Syria on Friday for an official visit.

His visit was followed by West German Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimondi.

The ban was lifted after 10 months and French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimondi visited Damascus last October.

"Behind the scenes negotiations that were being carried on for the release of a certain hostage or a number of others have stopped — mainly those concerning the German captive Rudolf Cordes."

Genscher expressed Germany's thanks to Syria for the role it played with other parties to obtain the release of former hostage Alfred Schmidt and expressed hope that similar efforts be exerted for Cordes.

Cordes, who enters his second year in captivity on Sunday, and Schmidt, who was freed in September, were seized by a group calling itself the Freedom Strugglers in retaliation for the arrest of Lebanese hijack suspect Mohammad Ali Hamadi in Frankfurt.

In Beirut, the weekly magazine *Ash Shiraz* on Friday quoted "highly knowledgeable" sources as saying secret negotiations for the release of Cordes had come to a halt.

It said the kidnappers were waiting for the result of the trial in Duesseldorf of Hamadi's brother Abbas, accused of taking part in the abduction of Cordes.

Chrobog said Genscher also told Shara that terrorism had to

be fought throughout the world. Syria's ambassador to West Germany, Saleh Haddad, said the visit by Genscher, whose country is current chairman of the European Community, signalled an important step in boosting relations between Syria and West Europe.

Relations were strained after Britain accused Damascus of involvement in trying to sabotage an airliner in 1986 and an American official was banned from going to Syria.

"The issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon has lately been further complicated..."

"Behind the scenes negotiations that were being carried on for the release of a certain hostage or a number of others have stopped — mainly those concerning the German captive Rudolf Cordes."

Ash Shiraz, which first disclosed a U.S. arms-for-hostages deal with Iran in November 1986, said in its report:

"The issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon has lately been further complicated..."

"The promises by the French are mainly those concerning the decrease of their military presence in the Gulf area as a prelude for their final withdrawal," the weekly said.

Five French nationals are missing in Lebanon. The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad says it holds three and has executed a fourth. No group has claimed the abduction of the fifth.

Ash Shiraz said negotiations over American hostages had stopped at a much earlier stage. It did not elaborate.

Cordes, the five French nationals and nine Americans are among 24 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon by radical groups seeking to barter concessions with Western countries.

ing a double game.

A U.N. force, with a degree of international anonymity, would have the advantage of reducing political concern building in Britain and the United States that navies could get sucked into an open conflict with Iran, diplomats said.

The United States has 17 warships assigned to its Middle East Task Force protecting 11 U.S.-flag Kuwaiti oil tankers. Another 16 American warships are on standby.

Britain's *Armillia Patrol* has two warships in the Gulf and one on standby, while France and the Soviet Union have also been escorting vessels flying their own flags.

Diplomats said Washington would be reluctant to cede a strategic advantage to Moscow which has so far failed to win port facilities in the Gulf.

One of the main reasons the U.S. agreed to step up its naval presence last July was to counter a diplomatic offensive by Moscow which had secured far closer relations with Gulf states.

But Soviet overtures to Iran late last year, under much of that progress and official media in the Gulf have turned increasingly hostile, accusing Moscow of playing

the strait each day.

Gulf-based shipping sources estimate that no more than about 15 cargo vessels and tankers enter the strait each day.

## TV & RADIO

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ... Koran Programme Review

15:55 ... Cartoons Dennis the Menace

16:05 ... Children's programmes

17:28 ... Walt Disney Local programme

18:15 ... Local programme Southern

19:10 ... Local agricultural programme

19:45 ... Programme review

20:00 ... News in Arabic

21:30 ... Arabic news

21:30 ... Programmes on Jordan

22:00 ... T.V. Magazine (local)

22:00 ... News Summary

23:10 ... Close down

### BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1223 kHz

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:30 ... Rue Carnot

## Home news

### Jordan, Iraq review cooperation in transport

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Saturday discussed with Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghazi Jassim Hussein scopes of cooperation in transport, telecommunications and postal services.

Director-General of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company Jamil Ibrahim was present at the meeting.

The two sides reviewed the company's operations and future plans, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The company's board of directors last month reviewed reports

on the company's 1987 performance and plans for 1988. In addition, a decision was taken for the purchase of 150 new trucks for the company to promote the volume of goods transported between the two countries.

The reports said that control stations along the Aqaba-Baghdad route would be improved and expanded to cope with the increase in the company's fleet, which will number 900 at the arrival of the new shipments.

The reports showed that the company made a profit of JD 3 million in 1987.

### Joint technical committee studies TV relay station

AMMAN (J.T.) — A specialised Jordanian-Egyptian technical committee Saturday reviewed a study on a television relay station in southern Jordan and its transmission of radio and television programmes between the two countries.

The technical committee will next discuss exchanging expertise between the Jordanian and Egyptian radio and television corporations, and the prospect of establishing a direct duplex line between the national news agencies of both countries, to ensure

speedy exchange of news.

The Egyptian side of the technical committee, which was formed by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in its meeting in Cairo last month, arrived in Amman Friday evening.

At the conclusion of the December meetings of the joint higher committee, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Egyptian counterpart, Atef Sidki, signed minutes covering future cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture, information, tourism and health.

#### Queen attends planting ceremonies

Queen Noor took part in tree-planting ceremonies at the public

### Kingdom marks Arbor Day with widespread tree-planting ceremonies



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday unveils a plaque at the opening of the Al Hussein public garden in the Abu Nuseir housing estate, inaugurated as part of the Kingdom's celebration of Arbor Day (Petra photo)

gardens in Umm Al Summaq, Tia Al Ali and Khilda along with great numbers of people.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Faisal Al Hussein, Rawabdeh and Director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in Amman Mufti were among those taking part in the celebration.

Also present to plant trees at these sites were schoolchildren, boys scouts and girl guides, representatives of public and private institutions and local inhabitants.

The Armed Forces brass bands and scout musical bands took part in the festivities, as well.

The gardens were set up by Greater Amman Municipality and provided with facilities for the benefit of the local residents.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, during the ceremony, Queen Noor said that Arbor Day carries a special and unique meaning in Jordan's life.

On this occasion, she said, all members of the Jordanian family take part in planting, in a collective effort for greening the Kingdom.

The Queen expressed appreciation to all citizens and representatives of various institutions for taking part in the event which, she said, was an expression of their national sense of belonging to the Arab Nation, and a demonstration of their endeavour to achieve a better future for the next generation.

Other tree-planting ceremonies were held throughout the Greater Amman region, during which at least 7,000 forest and fruit tree saplings were planted by students, government officials and representatives of public and private institutions.

The Dec. 8 Royal Decree retained 27 members of the Senate in the new House and named Kamal, Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani, Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Faridoun Hikmat, whose last official post was that of director-general of the Tourism Investments Corpora-

### New senators take oath, elect officials and panels

By Rama Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The newly-appointed Upper House of Parliament (Senate) held its first session Saturday and 28 members of the 30-seat chamber took the oath. During the mostly ceremonial session, the Senate also elected two deputy speakers and two assistant speakers and named various committees and sub-committees.

The Senate met under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi whose mandate was renewed under a Dec. 8 Royal Decree that named the new 30-member House, and each of the senators present took the oath: "I swear, in the name of Almighty God, to be loyal to the King and the country, to uphold the constitution, to serve the country and to carry out all duties assigned to me."

Two senators — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who was in Aqaba attending talks between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Mohammad Kamal, who is currently Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. — did not attend the session. They will take the oath during the first Senate session they attend.

The Dec. 8 Royal Decree retained 27 members of the Senate in the new House and named Kamal, Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani, Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Faridoun Hikmat, whose last official post was that of director-general of the Tourism Investments Corpora-

tion, to replace Wasfi Al Mirza, Ali Hassan Odeh and Farid Al Saad.

According to the parliamentary statute, Senate members cannot serve as ambassadors.

During Saturday's session, the Senate named Juma Hammad as second assistant speaker and reelected Hikmat Al Masri as first deputy speaker, and Abdul Rahman Khalifeh and Ammer Khammash as second deputy speaker and first assistant speaker respectively.

After completing the election procedures, Lawzi and Hindawi exchanged speeches pledging further cooperation between the legislative and executive branches in the service of the King and country.

The Senate's four permanent committees dealing with legal, financial, administrative and foreign affairs were also elected Saturday. The formation of these committees came in the form of endorsement of suggestions made by senators.

Muad Badran, a former prime minister, Ahmad Al Tarawneh, a former prime minister and a

lawyer, Khalifeh, Walid Salah, Subhi Amin Amer, Hassan Kayed, a former minister of interior, Keilani, Mohammad Odeh Al Qaraani were named as the Legal Committee members.

The Financial Committee was made up of Khalifeh, Amer, Khalil Al Salem, a former minister and a renowned economist and banker, Abdul Majid Shoman, chairman of the Arab Bank board of directors, Hammad, Nayef Al Khriseh, Hael Surour and Mohammad Ali Bdeir.

The Administrative Committee was made up of Kavied, Noufian Al Saad, Hael Surour, Hammad, Khriseh, Barjas Al Hadid, and Masri.

The Foreign Affairs Committee was made up of Bahjat Al Talhouni, a former minister, Badran, Anas Hanania, Hazem Nuseibeh, Salah, Akram Zaiter, Field Marshal Habib Al Majali, a former commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Khammash and Kamal.

Two Senate sub-committees — education and social services, and occupied territories affairs — were also named Saturday. Members of the first sub-committee are: Talhouni, Salem, Zaiter, Badran and Kamal. The second sub-committee comprises of Tarawneh, Hanania, Amer, Nuseibeh, Qaraan, Khrishah and Hadid.

Senators referred to the Legal Committee amendments made to two laws dealing with Jordan's penal code and the Zakat (alms for the poor) fund.

### Khatib urges conservation energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib Saturday stressed the need for energy conservation in Jordan. He said that energy costs were a heavy burden on the national economy, and that all measures must be taken to prevent energy waste.

The minister was addressing the opening session of a training seminar for directors of energy departments organised by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in cooperation with the European Community (EC).

Khatib outlined the programmes his ministry is currently executing in coordination with

government departments, especially those programmes for training engineers and technicians in energy planning and improving the efficiency of equipment used in power generation and supply.

In his speech at the session, EC delegate to Jordan Marcello Palmieri described projects implemented in Jordan with EC help since the mid-1970s. He said that these joint efforts had led to an improvement in energy management and conservation in the Kingdom.

Palmieri then praised the fruitful cooperation between the EC and the Ministry of Energy

and Mineral Resources.

Director of the Department of Industrial Energy at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Rashad Abu Ras explained that the participants will hear lectures by energy experts from Jordan and European countries on energy management, insulation, central heating, energy cost control systems and energy consumption.

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Khatib

### King, Mubarak discuss West Bank and Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

A senior Jordanian cabinet minister was quoted as saying the importance of the Aqaba talks lay in their timing — Mubarak starts a tour of European capitals next week before a state visit to Washington.

"He and the King will be trying to consolidate the joint Arab stand adopted at the Amman summit," the minister, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Talking to Egyptian reporters accompanying the president, the King said efforts towards bolstering Arab solidarity had made great progress but "we are still at the beginning of the road and the responsibility falls on us to continue on the path."

He said efforts "that we exert towards Arab solidarity are with caution and vigil so that our steps do not falter in facing challenges."

The King described his recent visit to the Soviet Union as very successful and said he was very much pleased with the outcome of his talks with the Soviet leaders. He said he had sensed that the Soviet leadership "is dynamic, aware and informed, and ready to contribute to efforts for bringing about peace and security in this part of the world."

In reply to a question, the King said while the U.S. had been a traditional source for weapons for Jordan, the Kingdom had started acquiring arms from other sources such as Eastern and Western European states, the Soviet Union and China.

On the Palestinian problem and efforts to settle it, the King said there had been "increasing international interest in our cause and I can be sure that there is also great concern over the uprising in the occupied territories against Israel's occupation and its arbitrary measures."

"The uprising is indeed effective, and it is an internal Arab action against occupation," the people living in West Bank and Gaza, the King said.

On the Gulf war, the King expressed hope that the conflict would end soon, specially when "Iran feels that the Arabs are standing as one hand and one heart."

On Syrian-Iraqi relations, the

King said he was pleased to have met Mubarak at the end of the Egyptian leader's special visit to the Gulf. "I was informed that all the Arab leaders were keen in meeting President Mubarak," he said. "Our march is one and our goals are the same," he added.

Mubarak flew to Aqaba after a surprise visit to Baghdad where he held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Mubarak and the Iraqi leader discussed "Iraq's decisive capability to crush any possible Iranian aggression."

Mubarak discussed the Palestinian protests with Arafat during their meeting in Baghdad, a PLO spokesman said.

territories, a PLO spokesman said.

The spokesman, requesting anonymity, said Gorbachev expressed support for the PLO and the Palestinians, and renewed Moscow's position on the necessity for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Gorbachev also promised to render more support for the Palestinian people, the spokesman said.

Gorbachev's letter was in reply to Arafat, who had written to the Soviet leader about the "continued oppression of Israelis against the Palestinians," the Soviet news agency TASS said.

It gave no details of Arafat's letter, but quoted from Gorbachev's reply.

"The Soviet Union condemns the unlawful actions of Israel while it continues its campaign against the Palestinian people," Gorbachev wrote.

"The Soviet people and all people of good will are indignant at the violent measures used by the Israeli authorities towards Palestinians who are trying to express their rights," Gorbachev wrote.

He repeated a Soviet call for an international conference on the Middle East, with participation of all members of the U.N. Security Council and all interested parties in the region including the PLO, TASS said.

It said the PLO was "the only lawful representative of the Palestinian people."

In another development, Abu Sharif accused Israeli leaders of trying to mislead international public opinion by talking about a possible settlement in the occupied territories.

Commenting on proposals by Israeli leaders to negotiate with Palestinians who are not linked to the PLO, Abu Sharif said: "The issue is not clear, the Israeli leaders are trying to bluff international opinion by offering proposals which they well know nobody can accept because they bypass the actual truth."

"They try to hide the sun with their fingers," he said. "The PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it has expressed its readiness to participate in the international conference for peace in the Middle East on equal footing with all parties concerned and in accordance with all U.N. resolutions," he said.

### Curfews and siege fail to quell Palestinian revolt

(Continued from page 1)

He said it was the feeling of that falls on virtually every aspect of Palestinian life," Draper said in a speech at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

"It's not necessary to have to have this minute control over every little aspect of Palestinian life," he said. "Israel has to find some way to let the people breathe a little."

The army said a Palestinian killed in a firing range this week had been in a clash with troops.

A spokesman said the victim died in a confrontation between dozens of Palestinians and soldiers trying to clear their sheep from a "military exercise" area.

The Palestinians threw stones and brandished knives to try to keep the soldiers away from the herds, he said. One soldier shot dead a Palestinian threatening him with a knife, the spokesman said.

In Bagdad, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday that Israeli forces had killed a total of 75 Palestinians during the five weeks of protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arafat handed reporters lists of 75 names of Palestinians he said were killed by Israeli forces since protests started on Dec. 9. The lists gave details on their ages and when and where each one was killed.

According to the unofficial death toll in Israel, 39 Palestinians have been killed in the protests.

In Bagdad, Palestine Liberation

Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said: "The people living in West Bank and Gaza, the King said.

On the Gulf war, the King expressed hope that the conflict would end soon, specially when "Iran feels that the Arabs are standing as one hand and one heart."

On Syrian-Iraqi relations, the

King said doors were open between Damascus and Bagdad and expressed hope that dialogue would continue between the two for the benefit of their mutual benefit.

Commenting on proposals by Israeli leaders to negotiate with Palestinians who are not linked to the PLO, Abu Sharif said: "The issue is not clear, the Israeli leaders are trying to bluff international opinion by offering proposals which they well know nobody can accept because they bypass the actual truth."

Mubarak is expected to hold talks later this month with officials in France, Italy, West Germany, and Britain. He is scheduled for talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington Jan. 28.

Arafat met Friday night with the Soviet ambassador in Bagdad, Viktor Minin, who conveyed to him a message from Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with the situation in the occupied

### Soviet message to PLO

Arafat met Friday night with the Soviet ambassador in Bagdad, Viktor Minin, who conveyed to him a message from Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with the situation in the occupied

### Lebanon appeals for Security Council action

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's view of its security will lead to a transformation of the Middle East into a state of insecurity, instability and political and geographic anarchy unless the international community intervenes," Salah said.

The Security Council had a fresh opportunity to help Lebanon out of this tragedy, he said.

More than five years have now elapsed since the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the occupation was condemned by the international community and the Security Council, Salah said.

"There is a body of regulations and laws and tradition and habit

noted. He said that several U.N. Security Council resolutions had been passed since then calling on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon territory, but Israel seems to be intent on perpetuating its occupation, committing more violations of international law in the Lebanese land and escalating its repressive measures against the civilians living there.

In all its actions Israel has been

justifying its occupation of Arab

land and its building of settle-

ments by claiming that this was

done for security reasons to pro-

tect itself, Salah said.

The aggression of the last few

# Jordan Times

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## Formidable obstacles

IN his interview with Britain's Independent Television News Thursday, His Majesty King Hussein accurately summed up the situation in the Middle East by naming Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and like-minded leaders in Israel as the principal obstacle to peace. The United States was pinpointed as a close second to Shamir in responsibility for the inertia in the peace process in the Middle East. Both parties, His Majesty said, have prevented the convening of the international peace conference, and, for that reason, they must be held accountable for the deterioration of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip leading to the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

King Hussein made clear that the stalemate in the peace process was not fundamentally linked with the PLO or its chairman, Yasser Arafat. The central challenge has always been the convening of the proposed international peace conference; all parties which stand in its way are the main villains, and not the PLO.

One of the highlights of King Hussein's interview was his assertion that both the Arab countries and the PLO have failed the Palestinian people living under occupation. He described this failure as responsible for the development of a new dimension in the Arab-Israeli conflict — the upsurge of a new force from within the occupied territories. The question that comes to mind is whether this nascent and growing force among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could become one of the main interlocutors in any negotiations between the Arab parties and Israel. It would surely be perilous if the Arab parties became more divided and competitive among themselves; still, one cannot question the validity of the proposition that the genuine representatives of this new element in the Arab-Israeli equation should have a central voice in any process intended for the resolution of the conflict.

But be that as it may, the most basic question remains: Will we have an international peace conference? The only thing beyond doubt is that Shamir and company, and the U.S., remain the principal obstacles to peace in our region, directly or indirectly responsible for the increasing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Successful visit

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak has completed a tour of the Gulf countries and Iraq during which he showed a lot of wisdom and reason in tackling the situation in the Gulf region. Mubarak had intended from the beginning to make the tour one that would enhance solidarity among Arab states; and accordingly, during his trip he was careful to reiterate Egypt's firm stand with regard to the Middle East question and the Gulf war and to emphasise the need for deepening the collective Arab stand in the wake of a successful Arab summit meeting in Amman. Mubarak has clearly projected the leading nationalist role of his country and its weight in the Arab World. He showed that the restoration of Arab countries' relations with Cairo served as the first step in bolstering solidarity among Arabs for the sake of building up a national force capable of dealing with all problems confronting the Arab Nation as a whole. Mubarak who arrives Saturday in Amman is also keen on briefing King Hussein on the outcome of his successful Gulf tour. He is keen to show that Amman and Cairo are together launching a successful diplomatic campaign and moving forward with confidence, seeking to achieve peace based on justice in the Middle East and in the Gulf region. Mubarak's visit here reflects the Egyptian president's keenness on maintaining the pan-Arab spirit which prevailed in the Arab summit in Amman last November. We welcome the Egyptian president and hope that the joint Jordanian-Egyptian process will achieve success at all levels.

### Al Dustour: Palestinian uprising continues

ISRAEL Friday followed up its atrocities in the occupied Arab territories by attacking worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest shrines of Islam, killing and injuring more Arab citizens. The Israeli authorities have on purpose chose the Al Aqsa Mosque as a new site for their new crime and for shedding the blood of worshippers there in order to deter all Arabs from pursuing their uprising against occupation. The attack on the mosque and the worshippers should not be regarded as similar to those other attacks on Arabs and Muslims throughout the occupied region over the past two months, but rather as one on a place considered sacred to all Muslims of the world. The attack on the mosque was preceded by a hostile campaign in which the Israelis are determined to carry out more repressive measures against the Palestinians who are now rebelling against occupation. The attack on the Al Aqsa Mosque was another hideous crime committed by the Israeli troops against the Muslim people and their faith. It is true that Israel is getting away with its crimes and escaping punishment due to the continued support and backing of a superpower which protects Israel at the Security Council. Yet, we believe that the Zionists should not escape unpunished for their crimes against the Arab and Islamic nations and their holy shrines and their acts of sacrifice in mosques. We consider the attack on the Al Aqsa Mosque as one directed against the Islamic nation at large, and insistently urge all Islamic nations to take proper action not only to support the Arab people under Israel's rule, but also to deter Israel from committing similar violations which are intended to insult the feelings of the Islamic nation.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Overcoming obstacles

THE Mubarak-Hussein meeting on Saturday is designed to formulate a pan-Arab stand and to enable the Arab Nation to attain a flexible policy capable of overcoming the present obstacles placed by Israel in the path of peace. The two leaders who hold identical views will be reviewing the outcome of Mubarak's tour of the Gulf region and a pan-Arab strategy that would stem Iran's aggressive nature, and enable the U.N. Security Council to implement its 598 resolution. The talks also come at a time when the Arab people of the occupied regions are continuing their uprising in the face of Israeli atrocities and struggling for freedom. Both leaders are convinced that Israel would not continue its terrorism against the Arab population if it was not supported by the United States which supplies it with the means to perpetuate its occupation and its inhuman practices. The Arab leaders who achieved agreement and consensus at their summit last November realise that that Israel cannot continue to tamper with security and peace in this region.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

### Is flat income tax rate feasible?

THE director general of the Income Tax Department announced another fall in the 1987 revenues from the income tax. He blamed the fall on tax exemptions and the "incentives" that were introduced by amendments to the income tax law in 1985.

Exemptions and incentives were meant to reduce tax revenue during the first and second years of their application, but now three years after their introduction we witness a further decline in the tax proceeds, especially in the contribution of shareholding companies.

Tax incentives cost the Treasury some JD 10 million a year. However it is still not clear whether this sacrifice on behalf of the Treasury has actually yielded the intended results, namely more profitability for the companies, or has only helped managers to relax their competitive drive.

It is high time to evaluate each one of these incentives. Some incentives did have a positive impact, but others failed to influence the behaviour of companies in the desired direction.

The worst incentive, from the cost/benefit point of view, was the exemption of banks and financial companies from tax on gross interest and profits derived from bonds, treasury bills, offshore deposits, and external branches without excluding the costs of producing the exempted income.

The result of this incentive was that the banking system shifted its

attention from financing industrial, agricultural and commercial projects owned and run by the private sector to the financing of the budget deficit and public sector corporations guaranteed by the government, thus crowding out the private sector.

The second such incentive was the partial exemption granted on the profits of exports. This simply did not work. Exports did not grow since 1984. Firms which could make money through exports did not need an incentive to maximise their exports. Firms that were unable to make money due to their high cost could not benefit from the exemption. In both cases the exemption did not change anything except the tax proceeds. This could not continue to be classified as an incentive.

The proceeds of the income tax in 1987 did not exceed JD 45 million, less than 4.5 per cent of the central government budget or 9 per cent of domestic revenue, or 2.5 per cent of gross national product. Income tax, it seems, is no more than sensitive and untouchable source of revenue for the government.

A major concern at this time is to attract more productive investments, in order to create growth and jobs. Therefore, the income tax file may have to be opened for reconsideration since the income tax has by itself become a negative incentive for investments. Some measure could be taken to improve the investment

environment. Perhaps the income tax formula could be simplified and flat rates used in a way to eliminate the negative impact of the tax and the reasons behind tax evading and avoiding.

We can do away with all exemptions, deductions and exemptions. All sorts of income, irrespective of source, can be subjected to tax, because income tax is the other side of good citizenship.

As for the brackets, we can levy 5 per cent flat on all income of individuals who earn JD 500 a month or less, and 10 per cent on higher incomes. As far as companies are concerned, we can levy 10 per cent only if the net profits did not exceed the prevailing rate of interest and 10 per cent if the profits were higher. Interest earned on deposits, bonds etc., can pay 5 per cent across the board.

In this manner tax avoidance, legitimate or otherwise, should disappear. The accounting for tax would be extremely simple and straightforward, and the proceeds would even be higher. More important, the form of shareholding company will again become feasible and attractive. Companies currently are overtaxed as if they represent an undesirable form of business organisation.

Projections for the five years development plan indicate that the return on invested capital is rather low. Investment may not be financially feasible if investors were subjected to 40 to 50 per cent tax on their gross profits. Such high rates inhibit investments and do not generate substantial tax proceeds.

By Dr. Fahed Fenek

## One Israeli's anguish over deportation of Palestinian friend

By Marcus Eliason  
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — To most Israelis, the four Palestinians expelled from the West Bank for fomenting anti-Israeli protests are little more than a string of names, ages and prison records.

But not to Dalia Landau. One of the deportees, Bashir Al Kheiri, is her friend, and their friendship illuminates the anguish many Israelis feel about their Palestinian neighbours.

It seems an unlikely relationship. The 40-year-old Israeli woman is described by friends as extremely private and not given to public gestures. The Palestinian is an avowed militant who has spent 15 years in prison as a convicted "terrorist."

"We got to know each other 20 years ago under unusual and unexpected circumstances," the letter begins. "Ever since, we have

been part of each other's lives."

They first met after the 1967 Mideast war when Al Kheiri showed up at the house where she and her family lived. The house, in the central Palestinian city of Ramle, was where Al Kheiri was born. The Al Kheiri had fled when Israel took Ramle in 1948.

Now it was occupied by Dalia Landau and her family, immigrants from Bulgaria.

Al Kheiri's visit "was my first encounter with Palestinians," wrote Mrs. Landau. She then visited his family in the West Bank city of Ramallah. They disagreed profoundly on politics. She believed in a Jewish state. He believed Zionism was a crime. But they became good friends.

One day Al Kheiri's father, aged and blind, came to visit the

house in Ramle.

"He touched the rugged stones of the house. He then asked if the lemon tree was still in the backyard. He was led to the abundant tree, which he had planted many years before. He caressed it and stood silent. Tears were rolling down his face."

Mrs. Landau's father gave him a lemon as a memento. Years later the old man's wife told Mrs. Landau that on restless nights her husband would pace the room clutching the shrivelled lemon.

In her hospital bed she wrote: "Ever since I met you, the feeling has been growing in me that home was not just my home. The lemon tree which yielded so much fruit and gave us so much delight lived in other people's hearts

too." Her friendship compelled her to re-examine her strongest beliefs. She had always believed the Arabs fled Ramle because they were cowards. Now she discovered they had been expelled by force. "My love for my country was losing its innocence," she wrote.

In 1970, Al Kheiri went to jail. Mrs. Landau married and moved to Jerusalem. The friendship survived. "I feel that you and I, your family and mine, were bound by a strange destiny, that the house with which our childhood memories were connected had forced us to each other."

She wrote unforgivingly about his "terrorist" actions, but accepted that he would regard

Israeli bombing raids on Palestinian targets as terrorism too. She felt that his militancy alienated Israelis like herself who believe in Palestinian national rights, but wrote that his deportation was wrong, because it made him a refugee for a second time and deprived his children of a father, which would make them hate Israelis even more.

"Our childhood memories, yours and mine, are intertwined in a tragic way. If we cannot find means to transform that tragedy into a shared blessing, our clinging to the past will destroy our future."

The letter concluded:

*Allah Ma'ak — May God be with you.*

Dalia.

## A letter to a friend

From Dalia Landau

DEAR Bashir,

We got to know each other 20 years ago under unusual and unexpected circumstances. Ever since, we have become part of each other's lives. Now I hear that you are about to be deported. Since you are in detention at present, and this may be my last chance to communicate with you, I have chosen to write this open letter. First I want to tell our story as he had experienced it, and as Yitzhak Rabin later confirmed in his memoirs.

My love for my country was losing its innocence. It was taking on new dimensions.

While I was learning to live with these painful facts, you were imprisoned. You were charged with planting a bomb that killed several civilians. My heart aches for those murdered even now. For your crime, you sat in prison for fifteen years. Passing the Ramle prison on my way to work, I often wondered if you were there. I never had the courage to ask. It was too painful.

After the six day war, you came with two other people to see the house in Ramle where you were born. This was my first encounter with Palestinians. My family and I had been living in this house since 1948, just after your family was forced to leave — you were a child of six then, and I was a year old. We had come to the new state of Israel together with 50,000 other Bulgarian Jews, and your house was considered "abandoned property."

Following your first visit in 1967, I accepted your invitation to visit you in Ramallah, where I found myself surrounded by hospitality. We talked for hours and established a warm personal connection. However, it became clear that our political views were very far apart. Each of us saw through the lens created by the suffering of his own people.

But some change in perspective was beginning to take place in me. One unforgettable day, your father came to our house in Ramle, accompanied by your brother. Your father was then old and blind. He touched the rugged stones of the house. He then asked if the lemon tree was still in the backyard. He was led to the abundant tree, which he had planted many years before. He caressed it and stood silent. Tears were rolling down his face.

Many years later, after the death of your father, your mother told me that, whenever he felt troubled at night and could not sleep, he would pace up and down your rented apartment in Ramallah, holding a shrivelled lemon in his hand. It was the same lemon my father had given him on that visit.

Ever since I met you, the feeling has been growing in me that home was not just my home. The lemon tree which yielded so much fruit and gave us so much delight lived in other people's hearts too. The spacious house with its high ceilings, big windows, and large grounds was no longer just an "Arab house," a desirable form of architecture. It had faces behind it now. The walls evoked other people's memories and tears.

It was very painful for me, as a young woman 20 years ago, to wake up to a few then-well-hidden facts. For example, we were all led to believe that the Arab population of Ramle and Lod had run away before the advancing Israeli army in 1948 leaving everything behind in a gashed and cowardly escape. This belief reassured us. It was meant to prevent guilt and remorse. But after 1967, I met not only you, but also an Israeli Jew who had personally participated in the expulsion from Ramle and Lod. He told me the

first step out of this dead-lock is to free ourselves from self-justifying moral relativism. We are taught that the essence of our Jewish tradition can be encapsulated in the following teaching: "What is hateful to you, do not do unto others." Unless both Israelis and Palestinians can embrace this basic human principle, we will not have a solid foundation for co-existence. That foundation entails the right to self-determination for both peoples.

You, Bashir, are a Habash supporter, rejecting the self-determination of my people in this land. Most Israelis feel that the Habash should be as well as the PLO. This is a shared destiny, as well as the shared fate of the people of this land. Most Israelis feel that the Habash should be as well as the PLO. This is a shared destiny, as well as the shared fate of the people of this land.

Our childhood memories, yours and mine, are intertwined in a tragic way. If we cannot find means to transform that tragedy into a shared blessing, our clinging to the past will destroy our future. We will then rob another generation of a joy-filled childhood and turn them into martyrs for an unlikely cause. I pray that, with your cooperation and God's help, our children will delight in the beauty and the bounties of this holy land.

*Allah Ma'ak — May God be with you.*

## Israel puts growing constraint on media coverage of uprising

By Paul Taylor  
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Israel, while avowing freedom of the press, is making it increasingly difficult for news media to cover the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, journalists and cameramen say.

The constraints include wide-spread curfews, the impromptu declaration of closed military areas, and in some cases, threats and physical assaults on newsmen.

The restrictions reflect Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's view that Western media coverage of the uprising in which Israeli troops have shot dead at least 39 Palestinians, has been biased.

"All soldiers hate the press now," an officer in the army spokesman's unit told a reporter in Gaza this week.

That resentment has boiled over into violence.

Soldiers beat up Israeli photographer Amir Weinberg, took his film and broke his cameras last Saturday after they caught him taking pictures of troops hitting a Palestinian in Gaza Strip town that had been declared a closed military area.

When two Reuter journalists followed U.N. Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding out of a car park in Rafah on Wednesday, one soldier kicked their car and another slammed his rifle

butt into its side, denting the vehicle.

An officer earlier ordered another soldier to seize the cameras of Reuter photographer Spiros Mantza who was taking pictures of demonstrators clashing with troops outside the U.N. building. A U.N. official intervened to rescue him.

In the same incident, a soldier confiscated the film of two photo-journalists at gunpoint.

On several occasions last week, troops have levelled guns at journalists photographing arrests or patrols in areas officially open to coverage.

## Solar energy — useable in developing countries

By Wilhelm Lange

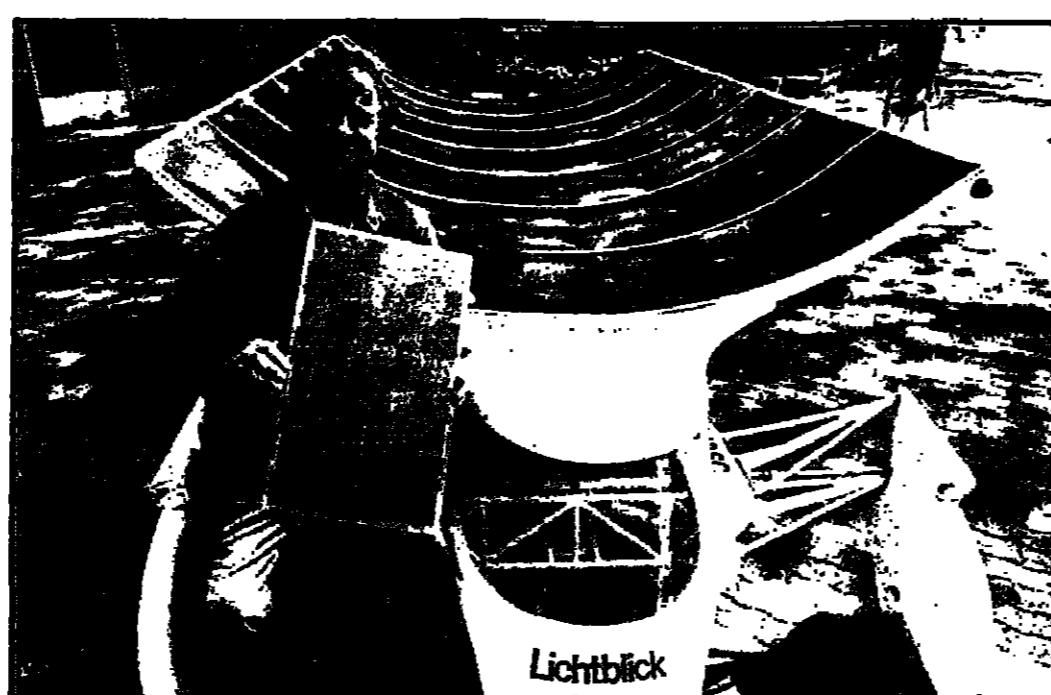
HAMBURG (INP) — "Solar energy is the energy of the future, not just an alternative," was the message at the recent World Solar Energy Conference. Conference chairman Horst Horster told delegates: "The energy beamed to the earth by the sun is about 3,000 times more than we consume. Enough energy reaches the earth's surface from the sun in two-and-a-half hours to meet our entire world energy needs."

He went on: "We expect that solar energy will soon achieve great economic importance... not only in Third World countries which lack their own primary energy resources such as coal, gas and oil, but in the industrialised countries, too. And these latter countries have stocks of inexpensive fossil energy sources which will last for decades as well as nuclear energy." Horster added that solar energy was environmentally compatible, having none of the disadvantages occur-

ring in the combustion of coal, oil and gas.

Experts say solar hydrogen technology is the best way of exploiting solar energy. The Bonn Research Ministry is channelling DM 100 million per year into the development of this branch of technology. Whenever the sun shines long and hard, its energy will be converted directly into electricity with the help of solar cells (photo-voltaic). Using an electrolysis process, this power splits water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen can be fed by pipeline or transported in tankerships to wherever needed, where it is then converted back into electricity or heat by means of combustion cells.

The new technology is well advised in German industry. Already, solar cells are driving water pumps in Arab countries, lighting lighthouses, and feeding emergency batteries in outlying regions. The biggest project in this sector in the Federal Republic of Germany is a 300 kilowatt solar plant on the North Sea



German Rolf Disch will be driving his "Lichtblick II" in "solarmobile" races in 1988. A successful constructor of solar-powered cars, he built this one himself.

island of Pellworm.

German and Saudi Arabian scientists are working together in testing a solar-hydrogen system in a DM 40-million venture in Saudi Arabia. This, too, receives financial backing from the Federal German Research Ministry in Bonn. Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber commented: "It's fascinating to think that solar energy captured in the Sahara

Desert can be stored in hydrogen then used in Europe as electricity, heat or motor-power."

But there's one major drawback: The solar-hydrogen scheme is still too costly. Even with a good portion of optimism, it has to be admitted that the costs of obtaining electricity in this way are several times greater than electric energy obtained from either conventional or atomic power stations. However, this does not have to be for always. Twenty years ago, the price of a one-Watt solar panel for converting sunlight into power was between DM 150 and DM 250, making it feasible only for use in space travel or satellite technology. Today, the same item costs between DM 15 and DM 20 — already 10 times cheaper.



Kimi Ko Gelman displays some of her assets in Rags to Riches, Thursday at 9:10.

### JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sun. — Jan. 17, 1988

11:10 Three's Company

8:30 Farrington of The F.O.

9:10 Doc. Omnibus

Hemingway

In 1940 Hemingway divorced Pauline and married his third wife (Martha). He participated in the Spanish civil war. Excerpts from his book, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* describe that war. He also participated in the American invasion of Normandy during the second world war in 1944.

10:20 Secret Army

Mon. — Jan. 18, 1988

8:30 Are You Being Served

The management resolves to sell sports articles in the shop, but employees disagree. A handsome young man is appointed to take up such work. Accidentally, the sales manager hits an old female employee with a golf blow on the head. She loses her memory for sometime but later regains it.

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Feature Film

My Blue Heaven

Starring: Betty Grable, Dan Dailey

Tue. — Jan. 19, 1988

8:30 Apartheid

Programme 3: Division — the years 1965-77

This programme looks at a key policy of apartheid — the creation of Bantustans (tribal homelands). Also examined is the evolution of a new philosophy among black university students — black consciousness. This philosophy, which rejected the acquiescence in white rule of previous generations of blacks, generated a new, aggressive spirit which first manifested itself in schools.

9:30 Executive Stress

Anthea Duxbury finds it somewhat "suspect" that the eligible Donald Fairchild shows no interest in her and Caroline finds it amusing that people may get the wrong idea about him. What neither of them realises is that Edgar Frankland has got the wrong idea about them.

10:20 The Equalizer

11:10 Dr. At Large

## A bond to boost chips' versatility

A revolutionary type of silicon structure for making microchips is entering the market and fulfilling an electronics designer's dreams. Mary Wilkinson explains that the product, called bimcos, combines the best of two technologies to produce fast, densely packed chips with low power consumption.

LONDON — In the acronym-ridden world of microchips a new name — bimcos — is emerging rapidly from the research laboratories and into products.

A type of silicon structure for making microchips, it is being taken seriously by most of the world's major chip manufacturers. Giants such as Hitachi, Motorola and Fujitsu have all recently launched their first bimcos products and early last month Britain's first commercial bimcos plant was opened in Sidcup, Kent, by the American-owned company, LSI Logic.

LSI's new plant will offer tailor-made bimcos chips to customers in Europe, the U.S. and Far East — a total world market that Dataquest, the market research company, believes will grow from almost nothing to \$500 million by 1992.

Bimcos is causing such interest because it manages to combine the best characteristics of the two widely-used silicon technologies — bipolar and CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) — to produce the electronic designer's dream of a fast, densely packed microchip with low power consumption. But its most attractive feature is that it allows analogue and digital functions, which would normally require separate chips, to be put together neatly and cheaply on a single piece of silicon.

Circuits made up of bipolar transistors — the oldest form of silicon technology — are ideal for handling analogue signals such as the undulations of human speech for telephone transmissions or for feeding a continuously changing current to control the speed of the likes of washing machine motors.

As well as their superior performance, bipolar circuits are fast and can push out a lot of current. On the negative side, they are power thirsty and bulky compared with the low power, diminutive CMOS circuits which dominate the microchip industry for digital tasks.

By combining both types of technology on one chip, a system designer can get rid of the several high power bipolar chips that normally link the CMOS computing part of an electronic system to the outside world.

This will cut the cost of and radically reduce the size of the system "box", says Robert Blair, president of LSI Logic U.K. It will also make it more difficult for competitors to unravel a company's circuit designs.

The bimcos process LSI is using was designed by STC, the telecommunications company which is a part owner in the Sidcup plant. But STC pulled out of ambitious plans to enter the commodity chip market two years ago, just as the £20 million (\$36 million) factory was reaching completion, and instead entered into a joint venture with LSI.

"A major semiconductor facility like this needs a company that is concentrating in that field, has

communications company, is also very interested in the potential of bimcos to improve its products. The company has an active bimcos research programme but has yet to decide when it will enter the market.

LSI Logic does not, however, have the custom-built bimcos chip market to itself. According to Dataquest, there are six other suppliers and more than 15 more companies developing bimcos products. The three most significant companies with bimcos products already on the market are Hitachi and NEC of Japan and Motorola of the U.S.

But all these companies are taking a different approach from LSI and STC on the development of the technology. Instead of offering the ability to mix analogue and digital signals on one chip, companies like Hitachi are using the advantages of bimcos to produce a fast digital chip without the high-power consumption of bipolar devices but with the power to drive a large load without slowing.

Hitachi has used a bimcos chip in its new S-820 supercomputer to speed memory management and it is developing a bimcos microprocessor.

LSI Logic eventually intends to go the same way but will first concentrate on trying to get its customers familiar with the analogue and digital aspects.

The biggest disadvantage of bimcos is that it requires a more complicated manufacturing process than CMOS which can increase costs by 15 to 30 per cent.

However, Dataquest expects the price of bimcos chips to fall as companies go into volume production, and believes the technology will capture market share from both the high-speed bipolar and CMOS custom markets, finding applications in everything from personal computers to robotics — Financial Times news feature.

## Debtor nations short of cash turn increasingly to barter

By Thalia Griffiths  
Reuter

LONDON — Someone, traders' folklore says, once bartered the skeleton of a Mongolian dinosaur for West German trucks.

The Saudis swapped oil for Tornado warplanes. Honduras exchanges bananas for Soviet fertiliser.

Barter, the world's oldest form of trade, is enjoying a new lease of life in the 1980s. And one reason, economists say, is that many nations are strapped for hard currency.

"The volume of countertrade has a lot to do with the fact that everyone is owing money. They don't have the foreign exchange needed for cash deals," said Jonathan Bell, research manager for Batis Ltd, a London firm providing trade information and research.

Modern countertrade is a complex business, involving not just bartering goods for goods the way early civilisations did before people invented money, but various other kinds of reciprocal trade agreement, too.

There is "buyback," for instance, where a firm gives a country technology and agrees to be paid in goods it produces.

In "counterpurchase," the seller buys something from the buyer in exchange. "Offset" involves an exporter agreeing to incorporate in his final product some part or parts produced by the importing country.

The extent of countertrade, long favoured by Communist countries, is hard to measure. Depending who you ask, it could account for anything from eight to 25 per cent of world trade.

The head of countertrade at a large British company said it made up a tiny proportion of its total exports but between 50 and 100 per cent of sales to problem areas.

"I think sellers in the 1990s are going to find a rapidly shrinking

area to export into where hard currency is available as payment," he said.

The debt crisis mean demand for countertrade was increasing as Communist and Third World exporters faced the problem of how else they could fund imports.

"My view is that it is not going to get any better," the executive said.

"I believe that in the 1990s we shall all be searching for alternative ways to do business, not necessarily through countertrade, but through more creative ways of selling — buyers helping sellers find outlets for their goods, more goodwill."

Traders often use barter to get round quota agreements, market sources said.

They said Uganda produces more than its annual International Coffee Organisation (ICO) export quota of 142,800 tonnes and barters the surplus with non-ICO countries in the Communist bloc and Third World.

Libya is supplying Uganda with \$6 million worth of oil in exchange for 3,000 tonnes of coffee.

Members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) use barter to evade cartel fixed pricing agreements.

Oil is a relatively serviceable means of exchange as the size, sophistication and efficiency of the world market means it can be converted into cash fairly easily.

Saudi Arabia bartered 400,000 barrels per day of crude oil to Shell and British Petroleum to pay for Tornado and other warplanes worth \$8 billion from Britain in June.

OPEC does not approve of barter, but many of its member countries do it. Jonathan Bell at London's Batis Ltd. said.

He also said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "are on a downer on any kind of countertrade, but they will give their tacit approval to offset deals. They tend to ask why

goods can't be sold for cash which could then be used to pay off debts to them or other creditors."

He said there had been a significant rise in the development of offsets from Third World countries for arms.

"More and more Third World countries want to develop their manufacturing capabilities or hi-tech industries and they can do this by imposing obligations on their trade partners."

Countries like Egypt and Brazil have developed significant arms industries through technology transfers and the use of offset obligations.

This is how Japan developed its industries after World War II, but now U.S. manufacturers will seek reverse offset from Japan.

If the United States sells an aircraft to the Japanese air force, it knows Japan will take it apart and make it more advanced, so the Americans seek deals in which the Japanese agree to share the new technology with them.

"The arms companies know trade is going this way and in their competitive business they have to go along with it," Bell said.

Countertrade between the non-aligned countries gives them economic independence from the industrial world.

Brazil and India are now quite large exporters of manufactured goods and can offer goods to trade, not just raw materials, and China offers more favourable trading policies to the less developed countries.

Traders believe a recession would mean yet more countertrade as liquidity is squeezed even further.

In a recession importers buy less, but goods are still being produced and are available for exchange.

In part a recession reflects a lack of ready cash and countertrade is one way of overcoming this problem, they said.

## U.S. researchers develop new blood test for AIDS

WASHINGTON — U.S. researchers at the National Cancer Institute have developed a new test that can detect the AIDS virus even before the body's defences begin to respond, providing an early signal of infection.

The new biological method also provides a tool for testing the effectiveness of drugs developed to treat the disease.

A report released by the institute January 8 said the new test is much faster and more accurate than current screening tests for AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), which rely on detecting antibodies produced by the body's immune system. Antibodies are natural substances produced in reaction to infection by a virus.

NCI researchers said the AIDS test was developed by using genetically-altered human cells that react to the presence of the AIDS virus by secreting an enzyme, a protein that speeds up metabolic reactions needed for cell reproduction.

"This (the enzyme) gives us a signal that we can measure very, very reliably," said researcher George Pavlakis.

NCI researchers said the newly developed cell line used to test for the virus is also being used in the laboratory to test the effectiveness of an experimental AIDS

virus and how precisely active the virus has become.

Pavlakis said the test is so accurate that it can detect 10 cells infected with the virus that causes AIDS in a sample of more than a million unaffected cells. The test also measures the presence of the virus directly.

Current screening tests for AIDS that depend on the measurement of antibodies produced by the body's immune system give only an indirect indication of virus activity. Also, it can take as long as six months after exposure to the AIDS virus for antibodies to develop.

"Even in the absence of antibodies," Pavlakis said, "this test will pick up active HIV" — the AIDS-causing human immunodeficiency virus.

Earlier this year a private research laboratory in Chicago, Illinois, reported the development of a new blood test that detects the presence of an AIDS virus antigen, a protein component of the virus. Although this test also can detect the virus before antibodies develop, it is not as sensitive as the antibody test.

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## Aldridge on target as Liverpool stretches unbeaten sequence

LONDON (Agencies) — John Aldridge, the man Liverpool signed to replace Ian Rush, scored his 20th goal of the season in a 2-0 win against Arsenal Saturday as the English First Division leaders stretched their unbeaten run to 23 games.

And while Rush continues to struggle in Italy, Aldridge, who cost £850,000 (\$1.5 million) from Oxford, maintained his excellent scoring record with a 45th minute goal seen by a television audience of 250 million in 55 countries.

Although Aldridge received the acclaim of the crowd, Steve McMahon — the best uncapped player in England — was the architect behind the move when he controlled an awkward ball on the right touchline and evaded a sliding tackle in one motion.

Mcmahon then released England forward Peter Beardsley with a perfectly-weighted chipped pass and although Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic saved his stinging drive, Aldridge was handily placed to turn the ball into the net.

Beardsley later put his name on the scoreline with a superb solo goal on the hour when he picked up a loose ball 10 metres outside the Arsenal penalty area, twisted past two scything tackles and flicked an audacious chip over Lukic's head.

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Coventry twice came from behind to snatch a draw in a repeat of last season's F.A. Cup final. Two Clive Allen goals after 36 and 75 minutes were not enough to equalise, hitting the upright twice.

Tottenham 2, Coventry 2 (1-0)



## N. Korea warns of decisive retaliation Seoul launches diplomatic offensive over lost plane

**SEOUL** (Agencies) — South Korea launched a diplomatic offensive on Saturday against its arch foe North Korea after accusing Pyongyang of ordering the destruction of a southern airliner last November.

Assistant Foreign Minister Park Soo-Gil told reporters Seoul had asked Japan to cut "all its human and material exchanges" with Pyongyang and to seek measures to prevent North Korean espionage activities on its territory.

A young woman confessed on television in Seoul on Friday to being a North Korean agent and to helping plant bombs aboard the Korean Air Lines (KAL) plane. The aircraft disappeared near the Burmese coast on Nov. 29 with the loss of all 115 people aboard.

North Korea has denied it was involved in the airliner's disappearance.

Mr. Park said Seoul had asked the United States, its main ally, to withdraw a guideline easing curbs on its diplomats speaking to their North Korean counterparts.

Last March, Washington announced it was allowing its diplomats to have serious conversations with North Koreans at diplomatic functions.

Mr. Park also said Seoul had asked Washington to inform North Korea's main allies, the Soviet Union and China, of the consequences arising therefrom.

## Shevardnadze visits Bonn today

**BONN**, West Germany (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrives Sunday for a visit that marks an important step in the Kremlin's revived diplomatic initiative toward West Germany.

The trip comes amid growing signs of differing opinions on security issues between West Germany and other NATO partners, particularly the United States.

## U.S. court clears way for return of Zimbabwean boy

**NEW YORK** (R) — Guardians of the son of a Zimbabwean diplomat accused of torturing the boy fear news of a U.S. Supreme Court decision clearing the way for his return home could harm him emotionally.

Robert McMahon, head of New York's St. Christopher-Ortlie Agency which is taking care of the boy, said it would take time before nine-year-old Terrence Karamba is emotionally ready to return to Zimbabwe.

"He is still terrified at the thought of going back. We are not telling him of the Supreme Court decision because he would suffer an emotional setback if we did," McMahon told Reuters.

The State Department, despite pressure from Zimbabwe, says the boy will remain in the United States until a psychiatrist in its employ says he is ready to go.

McMahon said the boy, placed

in foster care by New York City officials who charge his father tortured him, is being prepared gradually for his return home and was not helped by a decision by the boy's mother to return to Harare on Thursday.

The boy's father, former U.N. attaché Floyd Karamba, returned home last month after New York officials said he beat the boy and tied him with an electrical cord.

"Terrence had one visit with his mother since being placed in our care. He pulled his jacket over his head so as not to see her. We had been hoping to work with her and that would expedite matters. But now that she has left, we have to shift gears," McMahon said.

President Reagan has called for Terrence's return, saying Zimbabwe had assured him that the boy would be cared for by a guardian and not his father.

## U.S. ensures continued aid to Pakistan

**WASHINGTON** (AP) — President Ronald Reagan moved Friday to ensure continued U.S. aid to Pakistan despite concerns about that country's possible involvement in the smuggling of nuclear-type materials from the United States.

The White House Press Office said Mr. Reagan sent to Congress papers waiving a law that would require a cutoff in aid to Pakistan because of that country's activities in nuclear weapons development.

Mr. Reagan's action, which followed a presidential certification to Congress that Pakistan does not have a nuclear explosive device, assures U.S. military and economic assistance to that country.

The move clears the way for congressionally approved disbursement of \$480 million in the current fiscal year, which ends next Sept. 30, and more than \$4 billion over six years.

"This waiver action was based on the recognition that disrupting one of the pillars of the U.S. relationship with Pakistan (the aid programme) would be counterproductive for the strategic interests of the United States, destabilising for South Asia and unlikely to achieve the non-proliferation objectives sought by the (congressional) sponsor," the press office said.

Concern about Pakistan's activities in the nuclear weapons development area were heightened when Arshad Z. Parvez, a Canadian citizen who is a native of Pakistan, was convicted in Philadelphia of seeking to export from the United States special steel used to construct uranium enrichment plants.

What do you bid now?

A—In support of spades, your hand revalues to a full opening bid. However, since you are a passed hand you cannot afford to jump to three spades—that would not be forcing. Therefore, a leap to four spades is the clear choice.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4A10763 97 0A985 4KJ10  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A—Partner has made a game invitation on a balanced hand. Even though you could hardly have less for your raise, you are not relieved of the obligation to play in your best spot. With your ruffing value and four-card support, you must correct to three spades.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4A103 7A985 0J6 4A87  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

A—Since partner has a maximum of 16 points, your combined holding is not enough to venture to slam. And even though you have a good five-card heart suit, you shouldn't rebid three hearts, because that would suggest an unbalanced hand with a six-card suit. The correct bid is the obvious raise to three no trump.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

4K 9873 0A106 4KJ532  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A—This hand is simple if you play five-card majors—you can raise to two hearts in comfort. And that is the only bid available if you play four-card majors. We do not live in a perfect world, so you just have to take a chance that partner has either five cards in his suit or a good

## Chirac will stand for presidency

**PARIS** (R) — Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac formally announced Saturday that he would run in France's presidential election to be held in the spring.

The statement also accused Seoul of trying to divert attention from peace plans proposed by the North this year, charging that southern leaders had arranged the destruction of the KAL jet themselves.

South Korea's U.N. ambassador called Friday for U.N. members to impose sanctions against North Korea for its alleged role in blowing up a South Korean passenger jet.

But Keun Park told a news conference that no military retaliation was planned against North Korea for the incident.

He said South Korea was considering taking its case to the Security Council but was not yet proposing specific sanctions.

Mr. Park said Seoul demands that North Korea apologise, punish those involved in the plot and pledge never again to commit state terrorism against South Korea.

"Of course, we know they will not heed us," he said.

On Thursday, the Korean envoy presented Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar with a report on the investigation and findings that North Korea plotted its election congress.

Chirac's statement, issued by the prime minister's office, said his campaign would focus on unemployment and youth, and preparing France for the single European market in 1992 when all trade barriers will be removed among the 12 members of the European Community.

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